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"FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR AND WRITE THE PEACE"

-- Claude R. Wickard
Secretary of Agriculture

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration,

Washington, D. C.

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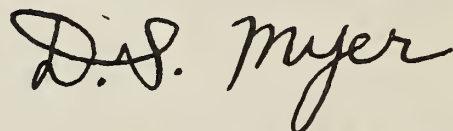
FOREWORD

Six million farmers for freedom on Uncle Sam's food front have their sights trained on the biggest production objective in the history of man -- a third more food than was grown in 1917-18 and one-fifth more than the average production in 1935-39.

It is an uphill job, with less soil fertility than in the First World War, with a fifth less new machinery than in recent years, with a scarcity of labor in many crucial areas, and with acute shortages of fertilizer and various kinds of equipment.

Agriculture's staggering responsibility is not only a matter of producing more with less. Farm production must be in the proper balance -- the right amounts of the right things, without waste, with advance preparations for even greater output as the war progresses.

The farmers of America can meet their wartime obligations in the same way they have faced depressions and droughts and all sorts of challenges in recent years -- through programs initiated by farmers, developed by farmers, and carried out by farmers in the highest traditions of democracy.



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On December 13, 1941, the Secretary of Agriculture streamlined the Department by grouping 19 agencies under 8 Administrators who, with 3 other officials, comprise an agricultural "war cabinet" small enough to work effectively but covering all activities of the Department.

One of these groups, officially established by Presidential order February 23, 1942, is the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, consisting of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, the Soil Conservation Service, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Sugar Agency.

Each of these four agencies continues to operate as a separate administrative unit but is under the direction of an Administrator and Assistant Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration.

The new ACAA has many and great responsibilities in agriculture's war task -- responsibilities to farmers, to the Nation, and to the world-wide fight for freedom.

Here are some of them:

Conservation

Conservation farming means using the land to the best advantage, considering the Nation's production requirements for tomorrow as well as today. It is not limited to saving up soil fertility for future generations. Conservation farming is the most effective way to boost output now, this year, and also to make possible even more production next year and the year after that, as long as the war lasts and then some.

Cultivating sloping land on the contour, strip cropping, and terracing hold water in the ground instead of letting it run off and take the topsoil with it. Contouring alone has increased corn production twofold on test farms and in test areas. Also, it has required 7 percent less time and 10 percent less fuel in the preparation of land and seeding of small grains than non-contoured farming.

The right kind of seeding not only enriches pastures but brings out the grass earlier in the spring and makes it last longer in the fall.

Cows fed on a good grade of alfalfa hay produce milk with five times as much vitamin A in it as do cows fed on a poor grade of timothy hay. Thus soil conservation has a direct relationship to nutrition.

Examples could be cited at great length to show how proper conservation practices increase yields per acre and per animal unit. Examples also can be multiplied to show how the right methods save labor and machinery and fuel and fertilizer -- all of which are marked by shortages these days.

Thus conservation farming prevents waste. It makes every acre and every animal count for maximum production. It means producing efficiently, abundantly, and on time.

The Agricultural Adjustment Agency is making payments to nearly all of the Nation's 6 million farmers for carrying out practices that build up and protect the soil. It likewise makes payments for planting in accordance with either maximum or minimum acreage allotments -- to encourage crops that are needed most and to avoid wasting vital land by growing excess crops that are not needed.

The Soil Conservation Service provides technical aid to farmers in carrying out more intensive conservation practices after a careful survey of the needs of individual farms and individual watersheds. On March 15, 1942, some 3 million farmers were included in 693 Soil Conservation Districts, which are established under State law.

The grouping of these two agencies in the ACAA provides a basis for coordinating their conservation programs and enables each to benefit from the other, to the common advantage of farmers and the agricultural war effort. The AAA is intensifying its emphasis on the proper practices for each acre of ground, and SCS is expanding the scope of its operations to wider areas.

Both agencies are determined to put first things first. Heading the list is the job of winning the war. The second thing is to feed hungry peoples wherever they may be, and that means helping to win the peace. The aim of conservation under ACAA is to make every effort, every method, every payment stretch as far as it will go toward getting the most of the right products now and continuing to get them as long as they are needed, and at the same time to prevent permanent injury to our land resources.

Without the conservation work of recent years, America's agricultural plant would not even have an outside chance of reaching the production goals for 1942, to say nothing of standing the strain of producing even more in 1943 and perhaps for the duration of what may be a 5-year war -- or longer. Because the productive capacity of the farm plant has been built up through foresighted conservation, it is now ready for its fourth year of record output, and more to come after that.

But it will not be easy. Good land in the United States is scarce. The Nation's war requirements for food and fiber cannot be met without more positive conservation on more acres and more farms than ever before.

America's farmers can do the job through their ACAA and other agricultural programs.

Goals

The yardstick for measuring the importance of these programs is their contribution toward the achievement of agriculture's production goals. For years, goals have been used by AAA on basic crops, but something new was added in 1942 when goals were set up for all farm products.

As lend-lease demands upon United States agriculture increased and war clouds drifted closer to our shores, the Department of Agriculture set out in the summer of 1941 to determine how much of each commodity would be needed for 1942. This led to the expansion of the AAA production goal idea, to include all commodities grown.

Last fall AAA committeemen conducted a farm-to-farm canvass, asking each producer what he could do toward meeting the Nation's needs for food and fiber. Farmers throughout the country voluntarily pledged to do their best to produce the amounts set forth in the farm plans which they had worked out with their AAA committeemen.

National goals were broken down into State, county, and individual farm goals. There was considerable revision upward on various items after Pearl Harbor had boosted the war requirements of our armed forces, our allies, and "the man behind the man behind the gun."

Agriculture set a good example by establishing goals as a yardstick for producing the right amount of the right commodity. In March 1942 Donald Nelson announced that the War Production Board would assign production quotas to primary war industries.

Adjustment

Like industry, agriculture can achieve its wartime production objectives only through adjustment -- scaling down the production of commodities not so urgently needed and stepping up the output of strategic war foods. We cannot afford to waste precious soil and time and equipment producing large quantities of a crop, such as wheat, which because of the large supply on hand is not on the "must" list now. To do so would be sabotaging our best war effort. The wise use of our soil resources is just as vital in winning a long war as the wise use of crucial metals or other war goods whose supply is limited. Though it is not generally realized, the supply of good soil is definitely limited.

The farm program provides certain measures for achieving these adjustments in line with production goals. These are (1) acreage allotments which synchronize with production goals and furnish a guide for planting the right acreage of the right crop, and (2) marketing quotas which place a limit on the marketing of crops of which large supplies are on hand. AAA payments are used in some cases to encourage the production of needed crops, and in other cases to encourage farmers to cut down on surplus crops and substitute other crops that may be less profitable but more urgently needed. In addition, price support by the Department provides an incentive for growing vital foods.

Ever-Normal Granary

Achieving agriculture's 1942 production goals would not be possible were

it not for the crops stored under loan in the Ever-Normal Granary. Ever-Normal Granary feed grains are being used to produce the urgently needed meats, eggs, milk, cheese, and other high-vitamin foods for our war demand.

The foundation of the Ever-Normal Granary is the commodity loan program, handled through the Commodity Credit Corporation of the Department. Through loans available to farmers cooperating in the AAA program, farmers are able to put their feed and fiber in storage until needed for use on the farm or for sale to meet market requirements.

Because of the commodities held in the Ever-Normal Granary, farmers are able now to utilize more land for the production of vitally-needed foods.

Federal Crop Insurance

Federal Crop Insurance protects up to 75 percent of the insured farmer's average yield of wheat and cotton from crop losses caused by such unavoidable hazards as drought, plant diseases, insects, floods, etc. Before planting, landowners, tenants, and sharecroppers sign an insurance application and a commodity note for the amount of the premium. The note becomes due at about harvest-time, and is payable in wheat or cotton or its equivalent in cash. Crop insurance stabilizes crop income, thus helping the grower to meet financial obligations incurred in the purchase of seed, fertilizer, insecticides, and labor; reduces unemployment and migration of farm workers; stabilizes an even flow of wheat and cotton into markets and mills; and provides the means of financing other crops essential in winning the war. The stabilized income of the grower relieves the distress caused by crop losses, and removes from the States and the Nation some of the unemployment burdens which follow crop failures. Thus the Nation is strengthened.

The Sugar Agency

The administration of the Sugar Act of 1937 is handled by the Sugar Agency. Under this legislation, the United States sugar market is divided among the various domestic and foreign areas which supply our sugar. Provision is made also for an excise tax on sugar and for payments to domestic sugarcane and sugar beet growers who comply with the program. Growers who wish payments on the 1942 crop may not hire child labor, and they must pay fair wages to field labor, promote soil conservation, and, in the case of producers who are also processors, pay fair prices for beets or cane bought from other growers.

The curtailment of the Ever-Normal Granary for sugar, as a result of war conditions, has brought about added emphasis upon the tax-payment provisions of the program which, by effecting a more equitable distribution of sugar income among the growers, processors, and laborers, are vitally needed at this time to stimulate production. Sugar program payments, which were recently increased by Congress in order to encourage greater production in this country, will be made on all the sugar which growers will be able to produce.

With the information already available and currently reported to the Agency on the agricultural, processing, and distributing operations of the sugar industry, it is able to advise other Governmental agencies on sugar matters relating to the war effort and to supply technical and statistical assistance to them.

The sugar program is carried out through AAA committees.

Price Management

In order to enable the farmer to produce a record supply of food this year and still stay in business, and at the same time to protect the interests of consumers, certain price-management provisions are applicable to agriculture. This means stabilizing farm prices at a level that is fair to both the farmer and the consumer.

To help farmers meet their production requirements in the face of increasing costs, the Department is carrying out price-support measures. This involves support of prices at 85 percent of parity mainly (1) through direct purchases of strategic foods, and (2) commodity loans on the basic crops. In addition, parity payments are made on 5 basic crops if the average price falls below the standard of fairness established by law.

At the same time, the Department is cooperating under the Price Control Act of 1942 to prevent farm prices from rising to inflationary heights -- something both farmers and consumers want to avoid.

Democracy

Democracy in this country was fathered by men who lived close to the soil -- men who struggled fiercely and labored steadfastly so that freedom might live and grow in this country. Democracy, today, still has its roots deep in the soil of agricultural America. The men who till the soil are nurturing the cause of free men through their democratic procedures and methods of operation. Their representative leadership, their elected committees and supervisors are examples of democracy in action.

The coordination of the agricultural war effort through the USDA War Boards gives unity and cohesion to the farmer's all-important contribution.

The worth of agriculture's democratic machinery was conclusively demonstrated last fall when AAA farmer committeemen, under supervision of the War Boards, made a person-to-person canvass of practically all the farmers in America -- in little more than a month -- to map out the production program of each farm for 1942. This is a job that would have been virtually impossible had the farm program organization not been in full operation.

So long as farmers have a hand in shaping their own program and operating it in accordance with their traditional methods of self-government, rural America will continue to be a bulwark of democracy.

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